



BURLINGTON
PARKS
RECREATION
WATERFRONT

PARKS & RECREATION AD HARBOR COMMISSION

January 3, 2017

McClure Multi-Generational Center, 241 N. Winooski Avenue

5:30PM

Commission Present: Bossange, Kaplan, Hurley, Hanson, Hale, Pierce, Healy and Montroll

Staff Present: Bridges, Holbrook, Sarah Carter, Susan Carter, Rogers, Moreau, Kaeding, Cane and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:33p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made to approve the agenda with the following amendments; add item III. Action Item: Tree Appeal and move all action items (IV, VII and VIII) to be next and continue with the other items in order beginning with presentations by Bossange, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2016 Meeting

*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda as amended by Hanson regarding water taxi placement question by Hurley, second by Hanson, motion carried as amended.

Tree Appeal

Bridges stated per the last Commission meeting it was agreed that the Commission would come back with an action to the Tree Appeal. He said that as the Arborist had stated the tree is healthy and spoke with DPW regarding the sidewalk and would be taken care of in the spring, in good shape and will coordinate in future and try to minimize removal of healthy trees. City would recommend keeping the tree.

Hale asked for clarification of the tree location, if it was in the green belt and under the care of the City and was told yes by Bridges. Hanson asked if the slight lean of the tree was leaning toward the home-owners house and was told no, asked what the responsibility was of the City and Bridges stated satisfied with the tree both in terms of health and safety.

Pierce asked for clarification of the owners concern for safety and was told by Bridges that what is looked at is the replacement of sidewalk and if you equated the cost of the actual replacement of the tree the cost would be even higher.

Kaplan did not want to set a precedent of removing trees if not a safety issue, felt appropriate to leave in place.

Bossange made a motion to keep the tree in place with the reasoning that it is not a health and safety concern, second by Pierce, motion carried.

Kaplan stated that she would communicate the decision with the property owner.



Segway Contract Renewal

Bridges recommended approving renewal with Burlington Segways, been good partner, less conflicts in area of use and no issues, also has produced revenue for the department.

Pierce asked if any other companies were interested in this type of business as well and Bridges stated that years ago was another interested but none entered into for specific lease with parks to run business and in theory others could get same level of approval.

Hale asked if these revenues are included in the proposed budget and Bridges stated that these monies would not affect the budget largely.

Hale made a motion to approve the Parks Director to negotiate and execute a renewed commercial use agreement with Burlington Segway's, second by Hanson, motion carried.

BHM Private Marina-Harbor

Bridges stated that a presentation was done at the December Commission meeting on this and could answer further questions if necessary. The space would be rehabilitated and would like to get the blessing of the Commission and if further questions the developers were available to answer.

Bossange asked clarification questions; if department was satisfied with the park plan and was told yes by Bridges, all questions and concerns have been addressed, was the preference to reconstruct or replace the current pavilion in a different place and was told currently not in a good place and could be relocated, if the public would have access to the Marina or if it would be an exclusive club and was told not exclusive, asked what hard scape meant and was told non green space, referring to a space that will be improved in front of the sailing center, removing pavement and making more visually attractive look, asked if the east parking lot was satisfactory to BPRW and was told DPW would be managing not BPRW.

Hanson wanted to know how many toilets are necessary for the facility and felt this should be in the contract, also asked the hours of operation for the restrooms as they were not filled in on the agreement and wanted to know if public access would only be available from May to October and would like to know if it could be worded differently to say weather permitting and was told the operation is much like the Boathouse and would not have full staffing available to keep open year round. Hanson was concerned about more demand and would like to see coverage. Hanson also stated that she would prefer not to approve the details of the agreement as they were not part of the process and does not pertain to this body. She could approve of the concept but not of the contract. Hanson asked if the drop-off area would allow for a full turn around by vehicles and was told yes but not for buses. Hanson also asked how it would affect the City from moving forward with doing its own Marina and Bridges said it would not affect still moving forward with proposal but would not be included in TIF funding and stated that there is a tremendous demand for slips on the waterfront.

Motion to approve the placement of a private Marina dock system and associated commercial use in Burlington Harbor concept approved by City Council by Hanson, second by Pierce, motion carried.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)

Public forum opened at 6:03 p.m. by Kaplan

Seeing nobody from the public the forum was closed at 6:04 p.m.



BHM New Public Park

Hanson asked for clarification if this space was the current parking space to be turned into green space and was told yes and it would in fact be a larger space than what is currently in place.

Motion was made to approve the creation of a new public park on the Burlington Waterfront adjacent to the Fishing Pier and new private Marina facility by Hurley, second by Hale, motion carried.

Waterfront End of Year Report

Moreau introduced herself, Waterfront Manager and Kaeding, North Beach Manager and Richard Bailey, Events Coordinator, who was absent, as the key Waterfront staff. Thanked Kaeding for really doing a great job picking up the slack due to being down a significant staff person at the Marina. The summer was very good and thus very busy.

Kaeding stated made 81% of capacity currently at the campground for reservations to date and will get remainder when open. Had a big problem with blue green algae will be very close to making revenues, tore apart the current office building and remodeling, team has gotten all new lighting and furniture. Will be issuing RFP for overhang, large campers and emergency vehicles can not fit through, will be ADA compliant. Starting siting study to redo the campground, over the next few years see what the potential for the campground could be. Incremental improvements, staffing, beach patrol, having a presence on the beach, would like to add shifts and go later in the day. Looking at security cameras at campground and the Marina, continue to improve the wifi, redoing public restrooms in the boathouse, new flooring and upcoming Marina Manager interviews.

Hanson asked why it is so hard to find a manager and was told pay is very low compared to competitors and hard to recruit. Bridges also asked for support moving forward from the Commission to support staffing.

Bossange is very concerned with the public and private sector and would like to keep the waterfront a public access area.

Bridges added that previously did not have permanent staffing for the large revenue producing facilities (Campground and Waterfront Marina) now have full time staffing. Bossange stated need to keep in mind the need for funding to preserve holding on to the land and keeping it public. Bridges added there will be more conversations regarding the budgeting process moving forward.

Bossange asked about the wifi usage at the campground and waterfront and was told they are the highest use locations.

Some Commissioners expressed dissatisfaction of the use of televisions and electronics at the campground and would like it to be more of an outdoor experience.

Bridges acknowledged the amazing work Moreau has done keeping business and public access going well into the future.



Senior Center Program Report

Holbrook started by introducing herself, pointed out it is her one year anniversary with the department and is very happy to be with the department. Spoke about the daily meals program, averaging 22.14 meals per day and have risen to 23-36 since BPRW has taken over the program. BPRW asks for \$4 per meal and it is optional, BPRW pays \$2.50 per meal. Open to the general public but it costs a little bit more. Must have an information sheet filled out for each person that receives a meal which gives access to demographic information. Have daily programming for month and weekly projects or speakers. Neighbors in the building have stated that the BPRW presence is very different than what it was previously and really enjoy the change and the speakers that come in regularly. Do several trips to all different places, such as stores, restaurants and just get out in the community. VT Commons School will be coming in to teach computer skills, and many other activities. There is a continuation of people that previously came as well as new members.

Access to more art and culture is what seniors had requested and that is what has been improved and added to.

Building is being rented and when rented is fully staffed and a safer environment for all.

Hale asked if the center was looking for volunteers and Holbrook said yes and would get her in contact with Yvette Mason.

Holbrook gave a full list of full time and daily staff for the center.

Holbrook gave information about the Burlington Senior Collaboration, 13 organizations that were meeting monthly and currently have moved to quarterly. Kaplan would like to get a Commissioner on the group and Hale said that she would be happy to be the key person from the Commission to attend this group.

Cain explained that she is reaching out to seniors that use English as a second language and is working on bridging that barrier and Hanson stated that she likes the idea of including many other people to help interpret, signs and such that will help with translation. Bridges added that moving to St. Joseph's is the perfect place to continue this type of learning using the resources that they have to help with this.

Holbrook explained some of the monthly presentations, some goals and objectives are to exchange ideas about programming, ways to partner to better the lives of the community seniors, sharing engagement/public relations opportunities, sharing meal site availability for seniors, creating a resource for seniors to gather all programming, partnering with UVM.

Bridges added the collaboration is more about getting together all the partners and creating the platform to get all together rather than for us to operate through individual centers.



O.N.E. Community Center at St. Joseph's

Bridges stated that Rogers was currently at construction site and the initial elevator project will start January 16th, Rogers working with legal to reflect that not leasing but managing the spaces. Hindu community will have some space in the building; most of space will be used as transitional space while construction phase is going on, as well as the gym. Hope to have the elevator in by April but most likely would be closer to May. Having internal conversations as to when to move senior programs over from current location, would likely be in the fall, September possibly, due to the hot temperatures.

Great Streets/City Hall Park

Bridges said large public comment period during the holidays, lots of mixed feedback, some items in considerations are pathways and how the historic meaning is interpreted, balancing out a desire to start fresh with new soils and bright future for the trees with the disruption of cutting. Very vocal group that has some different ideas, some plans are not completely accurate, impervious and meandering paths, need to get funding for the next phase, goal is to get a cost estimate to construct and then how to phase in. 2018 is the preferred start date.

Hanson asked if the public process had been closed and was told yes by bridges.

Kaplan stated that as the Commission Chair she can post on Front Porch Forum and could direct questions or concerns to the correct person.

Director's Items

Bridges said Happy New Year, received two bids for next phase of the bike path, hoping to start next Wednesday.

Commissioner's Items

Hanson asked if any update regarding the soccer goals at the schools and Bridges said he was still working on. Hale said she was very excited about the Senior Center and the work that is happening in her neighborhood. Kaplan told Pierce that he would receive a parking pass for the summer. Kaplan expressed her appreciation for having the Commission meeting at an off-site location and thanked the staff for being flexible.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. by Hale, second by Healy, motion carried.